

Then, in the main routine processing, the processing for a case in which the response to the external apparatus is determined to be allowable is carried out according to the provided TCP/IP protocol.

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5       **[0023]** Meanwhile, when it is judged in the aforesaid step S102 that the access is not the first access and the procedure proceeds to a step S104, it is judged whether or not the source IP address of the external apparatus (for example, the managing computer 4) giving the access is identical with a source IP address stored in the storage section 9 in advance. Incidentally, the source IP address of the external apparatus is recognizable

10       when the source IP address included in a generally known form in the packet which is transmitted to the intelligent interconnecting device 1 from the external apparatus is extracted.

15       Then, when it is judged in the step S104 that the source IP address is identical with the stored source IP address (YES), the response to the external apparatus giving the access is determined to be allowable and the procedure proceeds to the processing of the aforesaid step S110 (refer to the

20       step S106 in FIG. 3). Meanwhile, when it is judged

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in the step S104 that the source IP address is nonidentical with the stored source IP address (NO), the response to the external apparatus is determined to be unallowable, a series of the  
5 subroutine processing is finished, and the procedure returns to the main routine (refer to a step S108 in FIG. 3). In the main routine processing, processing for a case in which the response to the external apparatus is determined  
10 to be unallowable is performed according to the provided TCP/IP protocol.

【0024】 A second example of the unauthorized access avoiding processing which is executed by the central controlling section 6 is explained next  
15 with reference to FIG. 4. Note that the same processing as that shown in FIG. 3 is given the same numerals and signs and is not explained in detail. The following explanation focuses mainly on what is different from the processing shown in FIG. 3.

20 To summarize the content of the unauthorized access avoiding processing in the second example first, in the structure based on the unauthorized access avoiding processing in the first example shown in FIG. 3, a valid period is set for the source  
25 IP address of the external apparatus whose access

is to be accepted and moreover, the source IP address which is not identical with the stored one is stored in an unauthorized access IP list and notified to a managing apparatus.

5    **【0025】** Specific explanation is given below with reference to FIG. 4. A subroutine processing shown in FIG. 4 is different from the subroutine processing shown in FIG. 3 in that steps S105, S109a, S109b are provided. The other processing content  
10 is the same as that in the subroutine processing shown in FIG. 3 and therefore, only processing content in these newly provided steps is explained below.

First, when the source IP address of the  
15 external apparatus (for example, the managing computer 4) giving the access is judged in the step S104 to be identical with the source IP address which is stored in the storage section 9 in advance (YES), it is judged whether or not this source IP  
20 address is within the valid period (refer to the step S105 in FIG. 4). In other words, the source IP address of the external apparatus whose access to the intelligent interconnecting device 1 is permitted is stored in the predetermined area of  
25 the storage section 9 as described above and the